

The Newport Mercury,
—PUBLISHED BY—
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NEWPORT, R. I.

THE NEWPORT MERCURY was established in June, 1858, and is now in its one hundred and forty first year. It is the oldest newspaper in the United States, and, with less than half a dozen exceptions, the oldest printed in the English language. It is a large quarto, weekly of fifty-six columns, and is published every Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, Friday, Saturday, and Sunday, except on the first of January, when it is published on the 2nd. It is published at the office of publication, at the corner of Thames and Water streets, in the city of Newport, Rhode Island. It is published at the office of publication, at the corner of Thames and Water streets, in the city of Newport, Rhode Island. It is published at the office of publication, at the corner of Thames and Water streets, in the city of Newport, Rhode Island.

Advertisements occupying Mercury Hall.
SUNDAY ADVERTISING. No. 49, 1. O. of O. F., Har-
bert Hall, Noble Grand; Perry B. Hawley,
Secretary; meets every Tuesday evening.
MILWAUKEE LODGE No. 33, E. O. U. V., Harry H.
Young, Warden; James H. Goldard, Sec-
retary; meets 1st and 3d Wednesday even-
ings in each month.
THE NEWPORT HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY,
James McLaughlin, President; John J. But-
ler, Secretary; meets 2d and 4th
Wednesday evenings of each month.
NEWPORT COUNCIL No. 31, American Mechan-
ics, meets 1st and 3rd Wednesday evenings.
FRANKLIN LODGE No. 33, K. of P., H. Dic-
kerson, K. of R.; H. H. Nelson, Reporter; H. H. Nelson,
K. of R.; meets 2d and 4th Wednesday evenings.
NEWPORT LODGE No. 11, K. of P., Charles
Spaulding, K. of R.; H. H. Nelson, Reporter; H. H. Nelson,
K. of R.; meets 2d and 4th Wednesday evenings.
DAVE DIVISION No. 8, D. R. of P., Sir
Knight Captain, A. B. Davis; Charles H.
Baker, K. of R.; meets 1st and 3rd Friday eve-
nings in each month.

Local Matters.

Grand Larceny or Insanity?

Mrs. C. L. Best's maid, Sibena Judge, a woman in whom, during nine full years, she placed implicit confidence, was arraigned before Judge Baker Tuesday afternoon on a charge of grand larceny. Acting upon the advice of her lawyer, Frank P. Nolan, she pleaded not guilty, and on Friday waived examination. She is held in the sum of \$500 to appear before the grand jury on the first Monday in November.

Before the examination fully \$500 worth of women's wearing apparel, and that, too, of the most costly kind, and jewelry and trunks, were found by the police in her trunk, and these confronted her when she was brought before Judge Baker, having just been brought from the Newport Hospital, where she was taken after she had attempted suicide by turning on the gas in her sleeping apartment at the Best cottage, last Friday night.

None of the articles missing from the cottage were removed from the house, they being simply placed in the maid's trunk. Her room adjoined that of her mistress, who never for a moment had mistrusted her favorite employee. She would never have been arrested but for the fact that the hospital authorities sent to Mrs. Best for a change of clothing for the invalid. Naturally, Mrs. Best opened the trunk, and there, to her surprise, found the articles she had repeatedly advertised. Mrs. Best at once notified the police, and the maid was arrested.

The attempt at suicide and the fact that the woman never sold any of the booty or removed it from the house, it is claimed, militate in her favor, and it is stated that she is likely to be taken to a retreat for the insane, instead of to prison.

The Republican city caucuses will be held on Wednesday evening of next week, and the city convention will be held Thursday evening. The convention will nominate candidates for Mayor, City Treasurer, and four members of the school board. The tax paying voters in each ward will nominate candidates for aldermen and councilmen. Some of these caucuses will without doubt be well attended. Numerous names have been mentioned as candidates for mayor, but in all cases the names have been used without the owner's knowledge or consent. The colored voters of the second ward have decided to oppose the revised constitution. The labor unions are all opposed to it, and the Democrats as a party propose vote against it.

Commencement Lodge, A. O. U. W., of Wicford paid a fraternal visit to Ocean Lodge in this city Thursday evening. A turkey supper and social was the programme arranged for the evening's entertainment and a most enjoyable evening was spent. The committee in charge of the affair and to whose efforts the success of the entertainment was due consisted of Mr. J. H. James, H. Comstock, George H. Popple and Wm. O. Milne.

Mr. Harry Barker has returned from a visit to New York.

Death of James C. Swan.

Mr. James C. Swan, one of Newport's best known and highly respected citizens, died at his home on Division street at an early hour Thursday morning. Mr. Swan was in the eighty-seventh year of his age and up to last spring had always enjoyed good health. At that time he contracted a severe cold and had suffered from its effects the greater part of the summer. He was able to be out, however, off and on during the warm weather, so that when it was reported about a fortnight ago that he was confined to the house his friends did not realize that his illness was more serious than previous attacks had been. That was, however, the beginning of the end and Mr. Swan failed rapidly, so that no hopes of his recovery have been entertained for the past week.

Mr. Swan was the son of the late Richard Swan and was born in this city. Here he spent his entire life and it is safe to say that no one ever possessed a greater attachment for his native city than did Mr. Swan. He was of a particularly observing nature and this habit connected with his natural love for the place and people connected with it enabled him to acquire a large store of reminiscences of people and places of Newport from his youth down to the present time. He could relate story after story of those who made Newport's history during the past fifty or sixty years, the houses they lived in, the stores where they carried on their business and hundreds of little items of interest connected with them. He was also a writer of no mean ability and many articles of interest have been contributed by him to the newspapers of Newport. For a number of years he contributed regularly every week to the columns of the Mercury and it was a matter of regret to its editor and to its readers when these contributions ceased.

Early in life Mr. Swan was engaged in the business of making neck-stocks, but being passionately fond of music he devoted considerable time to learning and teaching organ and piano playing. He was a thorough musician and, not content with learning to be a performer, he studied those instruments thoroughly in all their parts and soon became most expert in tuning them as well as in evoking harmony from them. He was for some time organist at Trinity Church and at the Unitarian Church and had also officiated at the United Congregational and St. Mary's Church organs.

Mr. Swan has been identified with financial institutions in this city for nearly half a century and his judgment in matters pertaining thereto was highly esteemed and his advice eagerly sought. He had been a member of the board of directors of the New England Commercial Bank since 1858. In 1859 he was elected president of the bank to succeed the late George Bowen and has been re-elected on each successive year. He was also one of the incorporators of the Savings Bank of Newport in 1858. In 1875 he was chosen a director of that institution and the next year was made a member of the investing committee. He served as vice president from 1870 to 1883, when he was elected president to succeed the late Richard Cornell, which office he held at the time of his death. In 1879 he was elected a member of the Trustees of Long Wharf, being chosen to the presidency of that board every year since 1896. He was also a member of the board of directors of the Newport Gas Light Company.

He was a brother of the late Colonel William R. Swan who, it will be remembered, was colonel of the Newport Artillery Company at the time of the Dorr War. Mr. James C. Swan was a member of that company when the governor's call came for the Artillery Company to proceed to Providence. This call came in the night and the company was assembled and had departed for Providence before Mr. Swan knew anything about it. When he discovered it, he was dismayed, fearful lest there should be a fight and he would not be in it and not at all relishing the idea of staying at home while his comrades were away to war. So, procuring a team, he drove to Providence joining the Artillery there and being present with them in their charge.

Mr. Swan was well known to most of our citizens. He had one of those genial dispositions which made friends easily and retained them without difficulty. He had always a pleasant word and a kindly greeting for all and had the happy faculty of being thoroughly conversant with any subject that was most interesting to his companion. He was very charitable, though in an unostentatious way, so that while an appeal for aid was seldom slighted by him, the aid was given in accordance with the scriptural injunction and he left no bright hand know what his left hand bestowed.

Mr. Swan was unmarried and made his home with his sister, Miss Sarah C. Swan, who survives him. Mr. Swan also leaves two other sisters, Mrs. Job A. Peckham of this city and Mrs. Thomas R. Taber of New Bedford. Funeral services will be held from his late residence Monday noon at 12:30 o'clock.

Inspector of Customs, Newport, R. I., November 19, 1898.

The United States Civil Service Commission invites attention to the fact that no applications were filed for the examination scheduled to be held at Newport, R. I., October 1, 1898, for the position of inspector of customs, in the custom's service in that city, at a salary of \$100 per day, and that another examination is scheduled for November 10, 1898. The Commission hopes that all persons who desire to become eligible for this position will at once apply for application blanks and information. The examination will consist of spelling, arithmetic, letterwriting, penmanship, copying from plain copy, copying from rough draft, and geography of the United States. This examination is open to all citizens of the United States who comply with the requirements, without regard to race or to political or religious affiliations. All such citizens are invited to apply. They shall be examined, graded, and certified, with entire impartiality and wholly without regard to any consideration save their ability as shown by the grade they attain in the examination. Persons desiring to compete should at once apply to the secretary of the board of examiners at the postoffice in Newport, R. I., for application blanks, Form 101, and "Instructions to Applicants," which should be properly executed and promptly filed with the secretary of the board. No application will be accepted after the hour of closing business on November 15, 1898.

Sergeant Andrew T. Leaghtie has received his discharge from Co. M, 1st R. I. Y., and returned home to Newport. It is said that he could have had a commission had he desired it, on the strength of his splendid record while Captain of Co. B, 2d Regiment, R. I. A. This record is one of which Sergeant Leaghtie may justly feel proud, for it was earned by a conscientious attention to every duty which his position involved and a thorough knowledge of what those duties were. Under his command Co. B was brought up to and maintained at a high standard of excellence and Sergeant Leaghtie's friends are confident that his application for a discharge from the volunteer army at this time was influenced solely by his conscientiousness of the duty he owed to those near and dear to him. Sergeant Leaghtie is not the man who would lay aside his gun for any trivial cause, so that we may feel assured that his reasons were good ones.

The first of the series of illustrated lectures, to be given under the auspices of the Men's League of the First Presbyterian Church of Newport, will be given in the auditorium of the church Thursday evening Oct. 27, at 8 p. m., subject Bon Hur. This lecture, illustrated with more than 100 stereoscopic pictures of high order, has been given by J. Wilder Fairbanks in many of the churches in the country with universal satisfaction. As it is not the intention of the League to make money from these lectures, but to give the people a good entertainment for a small cost, the small admission fee of 10 cents will be charged to defray expenses.

Monday evening while proceeding down East river, New York, on her way to the Sound, steamer Puritan got between ferry boat Somerset, which was just leaving her slip, and ferry boat Clinton, which was just entering hers. The Puritan was struck by both ferry boats and some of her joineer work was carried away. There was considerable excitement for a few minutes, but the damage to the Puritan was slight and she proceeded on her way. The ferry boats were uninjured.

The body of an unknown man was discovered by Andrew Kane last Friday afternoon floating in the surf just off of Graves Point. When the body washed ashore Kane and another driver who was with him secured it and reported the matter to the police. The remains were viewed by the medical examiner, and as there were no signs of violence found on the body the verdict of accidental drowning was given. The body had been in the water, evidently, for some time, and there was nothing about it by which it could be identified.

Wednesday afternoon Mrs. E. A. W. Ross, through counsel, filed her answer in the suit of William Dehon King et al which is before the appellate division of the supreme court. This was the last day allowed her by the court in which to file her papers. There was also filed a copy of the last will and testament of the late Pelatiah W. Gordon and a copy of letters of administration under the will.

The verdict of Coroner Stanhope in regard to the death of Willie Lawton is as follows: "That the said William Lawton came to his death by accident on the third day of October, 1898, at about 12 o'clock noon, at the corner of Spring and Barney streets, in said Newport. The said accident was purely unavoidable and no blame can be attached to the Newport Street Railway Company or any of its employees."

A Unique Vehicle.

Mr. M. E. A. Lasley, with his wife and family, reached this city in his "Home on Wheels" last Saturday evening and attracted not a little attention during their stay in this city. The wagon has covered a distance of 7,700 miles. Drawn by a couple of horses the journey has been made by easy stages, and during the trip Lasley has sold books containing an account of his experiences at 10 cents each. In 1831 the family lived at Port Angeles, Washington. Early in the year Lasley was taken sick and he decided to go to California. Mrs. Lasley thought of a plan to take the entire family and she set about with her husband to build the wagon, which resembled a prairie schooner. The cedar tree was cut down and sawed up, and the wagon put together. It was just 12 feet long, about 6 or 7 feet in width, and high enough to enable a man six feet tall to stand erect. The house, rather crude in appearance, is certainly comfortable, and affords protection from the weather. It is furnished with such things necessary for house-keeping, including a camp stove, folding beds, a folding table, chairs, cooking utensils and crockery. The top is covered with several thicknesses of heavy cloth, the front part is closed, and three small windows admit light when the rear door is closed.

In this house Lasley left Port Angeles on the 22d of March, 1894, bound for San Francisco, and the trip occupied nine months. It was not the intention at that time to make an extended tour of the country, but after a six months stay in California, Lasley decided to cross the continent.

After leaving San Francisco the family visited a number of Western states and arrived in New York last November. During the past summer a number of watering places were visited and the wagon attracted a good deal of attention. About all the New England States have been covered in the itinerary.

Mr. Lasley has published a little pamphlet relating the history of his venture and their journeyings, which he sells in the cities where he stops, thereby enabling him to procure the necessary food and clothing for his family. The Lasleys left here for Providence on Tuesday.

Colonel Barker Resigns.

Major Alvin A. Barker, First Rhode Island Regiment of Volunteers, has resigned his office as colonel of the Newport Artillery Company, a position which he has filled with credit to himself and to the satisfaction of that organization for the past four years. Col. Barker has forwarded his resignation to Governor Dyer and at the meeting of the Artillery Company Tuesday evening the following letter was read to the company:

Camp George A. Meade, Middletown, Penn., Oct. 10, 1898. Gentlemen: I herewith enclose a copy of my resignation, which I have forwarded to the adjutant general's office. It gives me very much to sever my connections with you as your commander. I shall never forget the many pleasant hours I have spent with you in your brigadier's memory. I want to thank you one and all for the respect you have shown me and the loyal support and prompt performance of all duties.

Now, as I am about to be released as your commander, pardon me if I make a few suggestions, and if you think them worthy of being followed I shall feel confident that you will follow them. Be a soldier and attend to all duties; obey all orders promptly; show respect to your superiors and work in harmony with them. All who are entrusted with an office, let them prove themselves worthy of the trust; and above all remember liquor is a menace to discipline and to a good name.

It is with great reluctance I take leave from you and I want you always to consider me your friend. As soon as my resignation has been accepted, I respectfully ask your fine roll. I am very respectfully, Your friend,

A. A. BARKER.

Colonel Barker has been a member of the Artillery Company since 1875 and has served through the several grades from corporal to colonel, filling some of the positions for two and some for three years. He was first elected colonel April 24, 1894 and had been re-elected on each successive April. His resignation was received with regret by the members of the company.

Rev. Louis J. Deady, rector of St. Joseph's church, entertained the workers at the recent bazaar, held for the benefit of that church, at Odd Fellows Hall Wednesday evening. A delightful programme of vocal and instrumental music and recitations was rendered after which a collation was served to the young children who were then sent home. Dancing and a cake walk followed for the older ones. Refreshments were served and all voted the affair a delightful success.

Floating wreckage has been reported in the vicinity of Block Island, and it is feared that some vessel was seriously damaged if not destroyed in the recent storm.

Mrs. Belmont Buried.

The funeral of Mrs. August Belmont was held at Great Neck, Long Island, Tuesday afternoon and was attended by a large number of her friends and relatives. In the evening the remains were placed on a special train and brought to this city, arriving here at an early hour Wednesday morning. The funeral was held at the Belmont Memorial chapel in the Island cemetery where a brief service was held. Rev. E. Winchester Donald, D.D., of Boston, officiating. The casket was then borne to the Belmont circle and lowered into its final resting place, Dr. Donald reading the committal service. A large number of handsome floral tributes were evidence of the high esteem in which the deceased lady was held as well as tokens of sympathy for the bereaved husband and children.

Melville—Thomas.

The wedding of Mr. George Melville and Miss Carrie Thomas, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Christopher Thomas, was celebrated at the home of the bride's parents on Elm street Tuesday evening, Trinity parish, performing the ceremony. The bride wore a gown of white silk and carried a bouquet of white roses. She was attended by Miss Josephine Reid, as bridesmaid. The duties of best man were performed by Mr. Charles Harlow. A wedding supper was served, after which Mr. and Mrs. Melville left for a visit to New York and other cities.

Wednesday was the anniversary of the surrender of Yorktown or, as it is called, Lafayette day. No special observance of it was made by the schools in this city. The matter was brought to the children's attention, however, by the teachers and instructive talks were given on the life and deeds of Lafayette.

The mysterious "one hundred" postal cards which have been circulated about town this week are said to be a part of the advertisement of a book agent. The air at the present time is full of political rumors and the anonymous cards were by many ascribed to political workers.

The Epworth League of the First M. E. church opened its season on Tuesday evening. A very pleasant evening was spent. Vocal and instrumental music was enjoyed and an outline of the work of the winter given by President Bradley. Refreshments were served.

At the regular communication of St. Paul's Lodge No. 11 A. F. & A. M., to be held Monday evening Oct. 31st, it is expected that the Grand Master of Masons will be present and that there will be a large attendance of the craft from all over the state.

After the Providence Telephone Company moves into its new building, which was described in a recent issue of the Mercury, all calls must be made by number instead of by name.

A number of Newporters took advantage of the special excursion rates to Boston on Wednesday. The reduced rate was on account of the Mechanics' Fair which is drawing large crowds.

The free delivery of mail from the Portsmouth and South Portsmouth postoffices is still hanging fire. It was to have gone into effect on October 1.

Rev. H. N. Jeter, pastor of Shiloh Baptist church, who has been confined to his home for a month with an attack of lambrago, is again able to be out.

Mr. A. K. Quinn of the gas company has been attending the annual convention of the National Gas Engineers of the country at Niagara this week.

The 47th New York volunteers were the first American troops to enter the city of San Juan, Porto Rico.

Mr. and Mrs. James T. Wright have returned from a visit to New Hampshire.

Mr. Alonzo A. Knowe, in the employ of J. D. Richardson & Co., is confined to his home by typhoid fever.

Mr. M. J. Finn, formerly manager of the Newport ball team has been in the city this week.

A report that the government would obtain the use of one of the Jamestown hotels for barracks has been denied. Mr. William F. Caswell, town clerk of Jamestown, R. I., is visiting friends in New York.

Mrs. Benjamin Easton and Miss Josephine Easton have returned from Warren, R. I.

Mr. Percy A. Tilley has returned from a vacation in New York.

United States Senator George Peabody Wetmore has been in town this week.

G. A. R. Inspection.

Wednesday evening Department Commander Samuel W. K. Allen of the Grand Army paid an official visit to Charles E. Lawton Post, accompanied by his staff and was received by a large gathering of members. The department commander made a most appropriate address followed by Commander Edward Wilcox, chief of staff, Col. A. K. McLaughlin, H. B. Chappell, Rev. J. H. Allen, George A. Pritchard, Quartermaster Charles E. Harvey and others; Commander Boetcher presided at the organ and patriotic songs such as only Grand Army Post can sing were heard. A supper was served by Seaford at the conclusion of the exercises. A number of Gen. G. K. Warren Post members were present.

The Oldest in the County.

Mrs. Ruth Potter of Middletown celebrated her 101st birthday on Monday last. Mrs. Potter is still of strong constitution, and is daily engaged upon her bridle of mares. Though still in full vigor physically, her memory appears to be failing her of late. She now resides on the Hayward farm and is the oldest resident of the island, it is believed. She is a daughter of Moses and Mary Clarke, and was born in Richmond, R. I., Oct. 17, 1797. Of 10 children she has now only three living, two sons and one daughter. Her husband, George W. Potter, died in 1852. She was the youngest of 18 children, and there are five generations of her family living.

Arnold Grant, youngest son of Mr. and Mrs. Angus Grant of this city, died at Providence on Tuesday from appendicitis, for which an operation had been performed Monday evening. The remains were brought to this city Tuesday night for interment. Young Grant was but nineteen years of age. He was well known here, having been educated in the public schools here, going from the industrial school to the Rhode Island State College at Kingston, where he remained until a few months ago, when he secured a position with Brown & Sharpe, Providence.

Funeral services were held at his paternal residence on Church street yesterday afternoon and were largely attended.

The First Presbyterian Church have just put in a new and larger boiler so that hereafter the audience room can be fully and comfortably heated in the coldest of weather. They have also finished the entrance to the church and lecture room on the Cranston street side, and made many other similar improvements, which will add to the appearance of the place and the comfort of the attendants.

George Church of Little Compton, now over 90 years of age, is the son of Joseph Church of that town who was a soldier in the Revolutionary war. He is hale and hearty yet and able to enjoy life. He is without quite a traveler. There are not many of the sons of Revolutionary sires now living.

Mr. Stein of New York, employed as a foreman in building a wharf for the American Fisheries Company at Stoughton Bridge, Tiverton, walked off the railroad bridge at that town early Sunday morning and was drowned.

Chief Engineer Andrew J. Kirwin has been in St. Louis, attending the twenty-sixth annual convention of the International Association of Fire Engineers this week. Mr. Kirwin accompanied him to St. Louis.

Mr. Benjamin Hazard entertained the Innumerable Circle of King's Daughters at her residence on Bellevue avenue Monday evening. Refreshments were served and a very pleasant evening enjoyed.

A character sketch of Col. Theodore Roosevelt, dealing especially with the personal qualities of the man, will appear in McClure's Magazine for November. It will be illustrated by several portraits.

Rev. Mr. Mead of the First Presbyterian Church of this city went to Lynn yesterday where he will deliver an address before the state meeting of the Young Men's Christian Association.

The pulpit of the First Presbyterian Church will be occupied on Sunday by Rev. John R. Mackey of Providence in exchange with the pastor.

The board of aldermen met yesterday and canvassed the lists of voters for the coming elections. Meetings for a similar purpose will be held next Friday and on Wednesday, November 2.

Corporal Geo. H. Wilbur Jr., of the First Rhode Island Volunteers returned to his regiment last evening after enjoying a thirty day's furlough at his home in this city.

The special Sunday evening services at the First Presbyterian Church are being largely attended.

Mrs. Wm. H. Maber and Miss Mary Maber are enjoying a visit to the Adirondacks.

Washington Commandery returned from its Pittsburg trip last Sunday morning.

MIDDLETOWN.

The regular monthly session of the Court of Probate and Town Council was held at the Town Hall on Monday afternoon when all the members were in their seats. There was no business before the Court of Probate and that presented to the Town Council was chiefly of a routine character.

Accounts were presented and allowed as follows:—Of James Corrigan, part payment on contract for stoning 550 feet of the West Main Road at the foot of Weaver's hill, \$601.55; J. Overton Peckham, part payment on contract for improving 717 feet of the Wyant road opposite the O'Brien farm, \$400.50; C. Henry Congdon, for repairs on Road District No. 2, \$38.43; T. T. Pitman, advertising proposals for improving highways, \$10.15; Peckham Brothers, for crushed stone furnished, \$181.32; W. Clarence Peckham, for constructing drains in Prospect avenue, \$5.25; John D. Blair, bounty on minks and skunks destroyed, \$9.50; accounts for the relief of the poor, \$55.25.

Claims for damages done by dogs to sheep and amounting to \$50.10, were presented by C. Henry Congdon, which were allowed and Middletown's proportional part thereof ordered paid from the dog fund.

For supervisors of the election to be held November 8, Edward M. Petzka, Arthur R. Anthony, Dennis J. Murphy and Richard H. Wheeler were appointed, the two first named being Republicans and the last two Democrats.

It was decided to hold a meeting for canvassing the voting lists preliminary to the coming election, on Friday, November 4, at 2 p. m.

At the suggestion of the Public School Committee, and in order to determine whether or not the state would avail itself of the aid from the state in behalf of advanced pupils as provided in a recent act of the General Assembly, the town clerk was directed to insert in his warrant for the November Town Meeting a proposition, to authorize the school committee to arrange for the free attendance at the Rhode Island High School, Newport, or at some other advanced school approved by the State Board of Education, of such pupils as the committee shall judge to be worthy of public aid in securing the benefits of a higher education. Where free tuition and attendance are provided by the town, the state will contribute \$20.00 for each pupil up to twenty-five and \$10.00 each for the second twenty-five.

THE PROPOSED NEW CONSTITUTION.

The time designated by the General Assembly, in the act approving the proposed new State Constitution, for voting thereon is November 8, when the voters will determine whether the organic law of the state shall be changed or not. There has been considerable generalization in the press about the new instrument and its adoption. With few exceptions, there has been a very clear settling of the many changes proposed. No doubt many features of the new constitution, which the altered condition of affairs, as compared with the situation of fifty years ago, demanded, are properly to be commended, as securing to the whole people, a more just and equitable representation in the legislation of the state. On the other hand, some of the proposed changes should be carefully considered before being adopted. One of these is the radical change as to the qualifications of electors. If the new constitution is adopted, all electors will have to conform to registration, the descendant of the earliest Rhode Island settler along with the alien of a few days citizenship, the yeoman of an hundred acres in common with the waif of a few weeks residence. We are told this is the requirement of nearly all other states, but it is a radical change in this, sweeping away all former franchise privileges and rights to the electoral franchise. It remains to be seen whether this change, if adopted, will improve the character of the electorate of the state and whether many of the better elements in the population, who are now voters, will take the pains to comply with the requirements of registration in order to vote hereafter. The change will power to incur state debts to the amount of \$500,000 without the consent of the people, instead of \$50,000, the limit in the present Constitution, is another feature demanding mature consideration. With the extravagant tendencies of recent legislatures in remembrance, there is no forecasting what might be done under authority augmented in this way to the present limit. If the new constitution is adopted it will take effect at the latest, on the first day of November next, and there will be no election of General Officers and members of the General Assembly, until the Tuesday next after the first Tuesday in November, 1899 the present state officers holding over until the first Tuesday in January, 1900, and all who participate in that election will have to register before November 1, 1899. Elections held prior to November 1, 1899, including town elections will be by voters having the qualifications required by the present constitution, and consequently there will be up to that time two sets of electors eligible to qualify, the one for the election to be held in November, 1899, and the other for any elections held previous to that date.

The street railway repair gang is at work on the track on Spring street. Heavy wooden stringers are being placed under the sleepers in order to add rigidity to the rails.

Harry C. Schooley, who was the cause of a young woman's losing her life at Watch Hill last August, has been sentenced to seven years in state prison.

The American troops will enter Havana on December 1, at which time the entire island will pass into our control.

Ocean Lodge, A. O. U. W., gave a turkey supper and social entertainment Thursday evening.

William Ellery Chapter, D. A. R., enjoyed a trip to Fall River by the electric on Thursday.

Washington Commandery returned from its Pittsburg trip last Sunday morning.

AN AMERICAN ASPIRANT

By JENNIE BULLARD WATERBURY.

(Copyright, 1898, by J. D. Lippincott Co.)

CHAPTER IX.

Desmoulins stood against a marble pillar, chatting with a knot of cronies. De Lacaze, his dyed mustache bitten nervously between his yellow teeth, gazed gloweringly about him in search of Priscilla. She came, finally, down the corridor, crowded with that portion of the audience which, Paris fashion, deports the ladies between the acts to inhale fresh air while exchanging snide platitudes. She was on Stormouth's arm. She looked like a white rose in the midst of a hot-house of forced flowers, sun-kissed, instead of galled, into fineness. Her eager young face, fine and spirited, bore the hint of a womanly self reliance which was like a whiff of something delightfully uncommon to De Lacaze's jaded eyes.

Desmoulins held forth, oratorically, to a man on his right, who was dubbed ironically by his conferees the "patented moralist of France." Cavalry had convictions and held to them. In this instance he had unflinchingly opposed Desmoulins' criticism and declared that the debutante had won "hands down."

"She will have a big fight, that young one," he asserted, with a world-wise wag of his head. "She has voice, talent, beauty and intelligence. Her cronies will dump her future if she does not frustrate their diabolical intrigues with consummate tact. She is too near perfection to attain popularity except among the fast, and the just are in the minority here," he added under his breath, with a refractory lift of his brows.

"Absurd!" ejaculated Desmoulins. "Notoriety is not attained so easily this side of the water. They come, these young novices, and dare to try and take on old dogs by storm. She is neither a skirt dancer nor a rhapsodist. More's the pity! She poses as an artist. She has much to learn. The third and fourth acts will determine her fate. If I am not mistaken, she lacks sustaining power and temperance."

"Temperance in foreign translation is that element which a pure American woman is brought up to ignore and which historically inclined Frenchwomen are exhaustively counselled to cultivate. It is what the sun is to the sky, what the heat is to summer, what the blue is to the sea. It is the body of any achievement. It makes its owner as a woman who has 'lived' materially. Without this hint of temperance, which obviously is portrayed in greater perfection if emanated from the standpoint of personal experience than through any copy, no matter how arduous its reality, an actress is contemptuously alluded to as an 'ignoramus,' and laughed at for being a weak interpreter instead of exemplifying the epitome of demagoguery. Playing at love, as in Constance's case, rings false on French ears. The critics forget that Juliet was 14, her idealism therefore in its baldest infancy. They remembered only a once great artist, long since dead, who sang the role to their complete satisfaction because she sang it from a standpoint of many sided temperance, no obvious overgrowth of her own erotic experience."

The critics called Constance "icy," therefore, and "characterless," and yawned out a protest at her evident "unfamiliarity with the boards," totally indifferent as to whether this was her first appearance upon the French stage or not. Had they been asked to consider her tenderly, they would have answered that the debutante had not considered them in her exhibition of imperfection. Yes, the voice was good; small, but sweet. But the girl lacked experience. One could see that she was "raw and colorless"—this, after repeated audges from Desmoulins, and frovns, fierce and undeniably contradictory, from De Lacaze.

De Lacaze, out of the depths of his own talent for using his friends to make the biggest moves on the world's chess-board, so that he might retire unsuspected of collusion from behind a possibly brought to light intrigue, had discerned, with acute apprehension, the policy Desmoulins proposed to pursue. It was to be a case of blackmail. De Lacaze knew blackmailing methods root and branch. He had pursued them for years with recognized proficiency. Desmoulins was to constitute himself the go between, in journalistic influence, which would determine Constance's future.

Desmoulins hesitated an instant. Then she asserted firmly, "There is such a thing as principle, monsieur." Desmoulins made a very fine and raised his handsome brows. "There is such a thing as conviction," he said. "I have read of men who starved on a crust rather than renounce one little of what they believed."

"Critics are not of that order, mademoiselle."

"When they are not, what they say should be considered of no value," returned Priscilla hotly.

"Softly, softly, mademoiselle. What they say is of vast importance. The way they say it is of no account. Miss Brilla has won her instruction. Why has it never occurred to her to win her possible detractors?"

"But say she has no money?"

"That is her misfortune, not ours. I have no doubt we might, in time, instruct your friend in the methods to pursue as regards the career concerning which she is so obviously ignorant. She could entertain her friends at supper. She could offer them from time to time a seat at her performances. She could recommend them as superlatively capable in their profession. She could do much—I speak disinterestedly; what I say for Miss Brilla is an evidence of true friendship—which I have no time to explain here."

"Thank you," said Priscilla artlessly. "I thank you, M. Desmoulins. I felt you were honest." Her little fingers slid into Desmoulins' astonished grasp.

Desmoulins inclined himself a trifle fantastically. Then, with a perceptible increase of color in his enigmatical countenance, he remarked: "I have just been saying to my conferees," denoting those gentlemen with a wave of his hand—they had been intent listeners to the above farce, and some of them were still smiling broadly, albeit deprecatingly—"I have just been saying that the next two acts will determine Miss Brilla's fate. Sustained power is what is most requisite in a singer. I fancy your friend is devoid of that."

"On the contrary," cried Priscilla, tapping her foot on the tessellated floor impatiently, "she has more sustained power than any woman I ever knew."

"My niece," interrupted Aunt Mildred's quiet voice in English, "is a warm advocate of her comrades, M. Desmoulins. It is our new world custom to fight our friends' battles."

"Admirable!" returned Desmoulins in the same language. He was noted for his bilingual capacity. He inflated his chest and smiled with gratified pride at being surrounded by so well dressed a party. For the past few moments the little knot had been the observed of all observers who passed to and fro. "Admirable! Your country is indeed a wonderful one, madame."

Aunt Mildred shrugged her shoulders and turned to Stormouth. "As if it needed that city specimen of the Latin race to confirm it," she whispered very low.

Stormouth did not reply. He was biding his time. There was a gigantic protest surging like burning lava through his veins. It took all his strength to choke it down.

"Aunt Mildred," whispered Priscilla, "I wish you to invite all these gentlemen—with a little sweep of her arm which included the count, Desmoulins and six or eight journalists—"home to supper."

There was a sudden ungovernable movement on Stormouth's part, which vanished as soon as it made itself evident. He folded his arms stolidly and appeared to be watching a woman with dyed hair and a magnificent flora who stood on the first landing of the great marble staircase.

"Because," Priscilla whispered, "it is the thing to do for Constance. It will put them all in good humor, and they will say nice things of her in the newspapers."

"You don't say so!" cried Aunt Mildred. "Well, I never! Now, how in the name of heaven, Priscilla, did you find that out?"

"Somebody told me," whispered Priscilla mysteriously. Then, with a rosy warm arm thrown suddenly about Aunt Mildred's neck: "Come, do, like a dear, for my sake. Will you?"

"What do you think of it, Mr. Stormouth?" Aunt Mildred questioned cautiously.

"Miss Priscilla," answered Stormouth, with his staring eyes indifferently fixed upon the ceiling, considering the far famed frescoes which had made their illustrious lodging there, "Miss Priscilla evidently knows what she is talking about." With this tactful evasion of the main issue he brought his gaze down from the ceiling and directed it, strained and pertinent, at De Lacaze. That gentleman was smiling a trifle ironically at the turn affairs had taken. He was inwardly convulsed at Desmoulins' audacity. He considered his manager was to be wined and suppered at his—the count's—expense. He was conscious more than ever that he was in the toils of a master spirit. His little romance was working out into a gorgeous work of art indeed under the hands of a professional adventurer.

"I will leave you with Mr. Doxie for ten minutes, then," said Aunt Mildred, with her usual bustling air when any entertainment of her own instigation was under way, "while I invite a telegram to send home. Gentlemen," she added, turning to Desmoulins and his party, "it will give me great pleasure if you will join me after the opera at 63 Avenue Montaigne, to meet Miss Brilla."

Desmoulins interpreted her remark in French to his comrades, who bowed low in response and signified in the same language their satisfaction at being thus honored.

"Might I suggest," remarked Desmoulins coolly, "that madame invite my friend the Duc de la Tour d'Auvergne also? He is a great power and a charming man."

The count gasped.

"By all means," returned Aunt Mildred cheerily.

That count nodded his brow.

"That will make—let me see," counted Aunt Mildred, "one, two, 20, of us, counting Miss Brilla and the duke."

"Precisely."

"Thank you, M. Desmoulins."

"It is for me to thank madame."

Desmoulins smiled, with a grave inclination.

"Parceur," muttered the count under his breath explosively.

Desmoulins gave him a warning if triumphant glance. The count snatched his indignation as best he could.

"Come and tell me," urged Priscilla to Doxie, "what made it occur to Mr. Stormouth to cross with you? He has told me so much of many of his friends. He never mentioned your name."

"It is a long story, Miss Deho," he said, "and I haven't the gift of speech. All I know is that Mr. Stormouth is a man in a thousand—one of nature's noblemen. If he ever desires a return in any degree in compound interest for his disinterestedness, he has only to call upon Stephen Doxie."

"I don't consider him 'perfect' by any means," remarked Priscilla musingly. They had strolled into the foyer and were seated on a velvet bench under a huge mirror, watching the crowd.

"It is singular to me that I never meet any one who does not go off into ecstasies over Mr. Stormouth's perfection. Aunt Mildred, for instance"—She checked herself suddenly and bit her lip.

Doxie did not answer. He had mastered Stormouth's secret from a look he had seen in his face. He regretted that Miss Deho appeared so indifferent to it.

"Were you ever in love?" asked Priscilla suddenly, apropos of nothing whatsoever as far as Doxie could perceive.

"Once," he answered.

"Did you love her very much?"

"Better than life."

"How did you feel?" Priscilla demanded. Then, as Doxie hesitated, visibly disconcerted at her inquisitiveness, she leaned forward and pressed her little gloved hand lightly on his. "The reason I wish to know is," she explained lucidly, "because I wish to know. That is all."

"That is a very good reason. But why do you wish to know?" Doxie was quite unconscious of having administered a counter thrust until he was all at once was vividly made aware of it through the sudden brilliant carmine which overspread Priscilla's cheeks.

"That's telling," said she, lifting her hand and pretending to arrange a soft tangle of hair which had fallen along her cheek like an itinerant moon ray across pink velvet.

"You don't feel," explained Doxie hoarsely after a few moments' pregnant pause; "you know."

"How do you know?"

"It fills you up," said he.

"Are you happy?"

"Happy and miserable."

"Are you sick?"

"You can't tell."

"Do you love her?"

"What makes you ask?"

"Once I loved always."

"I have had times in my life," Priscilla confessed, with a faraway gaze in

her translucent eyes, "I have had days when at the coming of one person—perhaps the person I love—my heart has beat so I could scarcely breathe. My hands have grown cold—so cold—and

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